Bill on regulation, control, development and management of ground water

3653. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of 296 mandals in Andhra Pradesh where declining trend of ground water was observed by the Central Ground Water Board between 2000 and 2006, district-wise;

(b) in what manner the CGWB is guiding the States to artificially recharge ground water in the States;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a Bill on regulation, control, development and management of ground water; and

(d) if so, the salient fatures of the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Declining trend in ground water levels has been observed during the period 2000 and 2006 in all the 296 'Over-exploited' and 'Critical' mandals in the State of Andhra Pradesh. District-wise declining trend and number of mandals is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has undertaken the following measures to guide the States on artificial recharge to ground water:

(i) CGWB has prepared a concept report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' identifying 4.5 lakh sq. km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water. The Master Plan has been circulated to all the States/UTs for appropriate action.

(ii) The CGWB has circulated Manual/Guide on techniques of Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/ Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iii) CGWB promotes rain water harvesting by conducting mass awareness/training programmes regularly in various parts of the country associating representatives of State Government Organizations, Educational Institutions, NGOs etc.

(iv) CGWB provides technical guidance on rain water harvesting to various agencies including State Government agencies, Educational Institutions, Resident Welfare Associations, Group Housing Societies, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(v) The CGWB has implemented 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various State under the central sector scheme on 'Study of recharge to ground water' during the Ninth Plan. These demonstrative projects have helped in evolving designs of suitable recharge structures in various hydrogeological environments which can be replicated by the States.

(vi) Implementation of demonstrative projects on artificial recharge and rain water harvesting by CGWB during 2006-07 in eight Over-exploited/Critical blocks and watersheds, worst affected by ground water depletion in 4 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to formulate suitable regulations to control the development and management of ground water. However, to facilitate enactment of suitable ground water legislation by the States, Ministry of Water Resources have circulated a draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water to all the States and Union Territories. The Bill was initially circulated in 1970 which has been re-circulated in 1992, 1996 and revised Model Bill in 2005 for adoption. 8 States/UTs *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted the legislation. 20 other States/UTs have also initiated the action for enacting the legislation. The Model Bill provides for establishment of a Ground Water Authority by the States/UT by way of notification in the Official Gazette and appointment of technical personnel and other staff. This Authority will issue notification of areas to regulate and control development and management of ground water, grant of permit to extract and use ground water in the notified area, registration of existing users in notified areas as well as in non-notified areas and registration of drilling agencies.

The Bill empowers the Authority to:—

- Alter/amend or vary the terms of or cancel the permit/certificate of registration.
- Inspect and take copies of the relevant record or documents.

- Enter any property to inspect the well that has been or is being sunk, to take specimens of soil or other materials or of water abstracted from such wells or order in writing the persons sinking a well to keep and preserve the samples of soils or water.
- Direct the user of ground water to install water measuring device on ground water abstraction structure.
- Seize any equipment or device utilized for illegal sinking and demolish the work executed fully or partly.
- Close down the abstraction of ground water or disconnect its parts supply and demolish any hydrology work found to be illegal.
- Enter and search any place where the offence under the Act has been or is being committed and order in writing the person who has been or is committing the offence not to abstract ground water for a specified period.
- Revised Model Bill, 2005 contains a new chapter on 'Rain Water Harvesting for Ground Water Recharge' and provides for imposition of stipulated conditions by the Municipal Corporations or other local authorities for providing roof top rain water harvesting structures in building plan in an area of 100 sq.m. or more, while according approval for construction.
- Identification of recharge worthy areas, issuance of necessary guidelines for adoption of rain water harvesting for ground water recharge in these areas and issuance of direction by the Authority to the concerned Department to include rainwater harvesting in all development schemes falling under notified areas.
- Promotion of rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge by the Authority through Mass Awareness and Training Programmes.

In addition, the Bill empowers the State/UT Governments to make rules to remove the difficulties, if any, in giving effect to the provisions of the Act within two years of the date of commencement of the Act. It has a provision for imposing penalties for offences committed against the provisions of the Act. The Bill also provides for appeals by the aggrieved persons to Appellate Authority as specified by the State/UT Government.

Statement

District-wise details of declining trend during the period 2000—2006 in 296 'Over-Exploited' and 'Critical' Mandals in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	District	Declining Trend during 2000-2006 (mt./year)	No. of 'Over-Exploited'/'Critical' mandals
1.	Adilabad	0.01 to 0.04	1
2.	Anantapur	0.02 to 1.33	40
3.	Chittoor	0.02 to 0.44	27
4.	Cuddapah	0.03 to 1.2	21
5.	East Godavari	0.02 to 0.12	11
6.	Guntur	0.01 to 0.05	2
7.	Karimnagar	0.03 to 0.77	35
8.	Khammam	0.02 to 0.89	3
9.	Krishna	0.22 to 0.99	2
10.	Kurnool	0.12 to 1.28	13
11.	Medak	0.01 to 0.79	21
12.	Mahabubnagar	0.02 to 0.1	20
13.	Nalgonda	0.09 to 0.12	9
14.	Nellore	0.03 to 0.67	5
15.	Nizamabad	0.07 to 1.38	22
16.	Prakasam	0.05 to 0.99	12
17	Ranga Reddy	0.13 to 0.44	14
18.	Warangal	0.05 to 0.44	24
19.	West Godavari	0.13 to 1.7	14
20.	Srikakulam	—	—
21.	Vizianagaram	—	—
22.	Visakhapatnam	—	—
		TOTAL :	296